



Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council

PARTNER SUMMARY REPORT

March 2023

Department of Education

Office of Early Learning & Development – Patti Oya

- Awarded Preschool Development Grant Birth through 5:
 - \$10 million per year for three years (\$30 million total)
 - New positions to support the work of the activities
 - Upcoming Public Canvas Course to explore projects and activities / Get Involved
 - Continued ECAC partnership and collaboration
 - ***Grant Activities Outline***
 - Update Needs Assessment
 - Collaborate with ECAC to update strategic plan and support subcommittee work plan development
 - Family Engagement in the B-5 system
 - Support Early Childhood Workforce
 - Support Quality improvements
 - Subawards/Projects
 - Early Head Start Home Visiting, Pyramid Model, Pilot Expanded Eligibility for NR!PK, Support for Children Experiencing Homelessness, Rural Innovation and Networking, Specialized Professional Development
- Nevada Pre-Kindergarten Standards Revision 2023
 - Upcoming stakeholder input opportunity to review the draft revised standards (early March)
- Developmentally Appropriate Practice Kindergarten Policy Statement
 - Presented to Nevada State Board of Education, January 12, 2023
 - coming soon...B-3 Toolkit & Implementation Resources for DAP K
- Early Learning Institute 2023
- Kindergarten Think Tank opportunity

Early Childhood Special Education

- No update provided

Office of Student & School Supports – Alberto Quintero

- No update provided

Department of Health and Human Services

Division of Welfare and Supportive Services, Child Care Development Program –

Karissa Loper (*no additional updates from January 2023 Meeting*)

- Effective November 1, 2022, the State of Nevada, Child Care and Development Program (CCDP), in partnership with The Children’s Cabinet, The Las Vegas Urban League, and Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) launched the Infant/Toddler Slots Pilot Program. During the initial phase licensed providers, operating within the identified promise zones across Nevada, were invited to participate in a Nevada Registry approved training to learn more about the program, eligibility requirements, and additional grant funding. As a result a total of 6 slots were awarded to providers in the promise zones.
- The availability of this pilot program expanded statewide on Friday, January 6, 2023. All licensed providers were notified, via email, about the program and its expanded availability. Since then, the CCDP email inbox has been flooded with interest from the community with questions, application request, and grant request. As a result, we currently have received thirty (30) infant slot request and one-hundred and forty-two (142) toddler slot request. Originally, the goal of the Infant/Toddler Slots Pilot Program was to increase capacity by two hundred (200) total slots statewide, however, given the vast interest just within the last week, that number could potentially increase based on funding. This pilot program is currently funded with ARPA Discretionary Funds.
- Any additional questions or inquiries can be sent to CCDP@dwss.nv.gov please include the phrase “Infant/Toddler Slots” in the subject line.

Division of Child and Family Services, Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health –

Rhonda Lawrence

- No update provided

Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Child Care Licensing – Latisha Brown

- No update provided

Department of Public and Behavioral Health, Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health –

Vickie Ives

- **Maternal, Child & Adolescent Health** - Tami M. Conn, MPH, Section Manager
 - The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Section (MCAH) has been participating in the Strong Start Health and Wellbeing Workgroup with the Children’s Advocacy Alliance.
 - The MCAH Section has a new Maternal and Infant Health Program Coordinator, Tasha Cadwallader
 - The MCAH Section and Nevada State Immunization Program collaborated on a sensory friendly vaccine kit, designed for kids and adults with disabilities. Items provide distractions and pain relief during shots.
 - MCAH has a partnership with REMSA to provide safe sleep education and cribs and car seats. MCAH provided additional funding to REMSA to support outreach to underserved populations. The goal is to reduce infant mortality and increase awareness of safe sleep and child passenger safety among populations with racial/ethnic health disparities and those disproportionately affected by infant mortality.
 - Nevada Home Visiting federal ARPA funded efforts continue with local implementing agencies
 - MCAH Data Dashboard:
<https://app.powerbigov.us/view?r=eyJrIjoiZTBmY2Y0OTgtOGFiOS00OTEyLWFkM2QtNmQ2NTI1YjI5YjgzIiwidCI6ImU0YTM0MGU2LWI4OWU0tNGU2OC04ZWVhLTE1NDRkMjcwMzk4MCJ9>
- **WIC** – Andrea Rivers, MS, Section Manager

- The temporary increase of available Cash Value Benefit (CVB) remains included in the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 23 appropriations through September 30, 2023, for eligible WIC families to purchase fresh, canned and frozen fruits and vegetables. An increase to the CVB amounts (originally \$9 and \$11 dollars per month) has been available to eligible WIC participants since June 1, 2021. CVB to purchase fruits and vegetables is redeemed by nearly 80% of WIC participants monthly. There are many advocacy efforts through the National WIC Association (NWA) imploring Congress to maintain the increase for families in future funding cycles.
- The current funding levels per WIC participant:
 - Children \$25/month
 - Pregnant/Postpartum Women \$44/month
 - Fully/Partially Breastfeeding Women \$49/month
 - Fully/Partially Breastfeeding Multiples Women \$73.50/month
- **Nevada State Immunization Program** - Kristy Zigenis, Section Manager
 - The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was created as part of the federal Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act, Section 1928 of the Social Security Act, in August 1993. The goal of this federally funded program is to improve vaccine availability nationwide by providing vaccines at no cost to VFC-eligible children through public and private providers enrolled in the program. The program is regulated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Immunization Program (NIP). The VFC program is now operational in all 50 states, Washington D.C., and eight territories including the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam. Nevada began its VFC program in October of 1994.
 - VFC vaccines are purchased under CDC contract and are supplied to enrolled providers at no cost. VFC enrolled patients may not be charged for the cost of the vaccine. Office visits may be charged, and Medicaid and Medicaid Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) may be billed for vaccine administration fees. Families not covered by Medicaid or Medicaid HMOs may be charged a vaccine administration fee. This administration fee should not exceed the fee cap of \$22.57, which is established by the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). This fee may be adjusted based on the family's ability to pay.
 - The objective of the Nevada State Immunization Program is to increase the immunization levels of children by eliminating the cost barrier that has prevented some private health care providers from immunizing children whose parents could not afford the vaccine. It also helps ensure that every VFC eligible child does not contract a vaccine preventable disease. The Nevada Immunization Program works closely with Local Health Districts and the community to help develop and implement systems to assess immunizations levels statewide.
 - Patients who qualify for VFC vaccines are as follows:
 - Ages 0-18 years
 - Medicaid eligible or enrolled
 - Uninsured
 - Native American or Alaskan Native - As defined by the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)
 - Underinsured
- **Oral Health** - Jannette Gomez
 - The Nevada Oral Health State Plan 2022-2032 was recently developed and will be published on the Nevada Oral Health Program website soon. Through the research for the state plan, the Nevada Oral Health Program found that oral health disparities exist in Nevada children. Nevada children had higher rates of decayed teeth or cavities compared to the U.S. 20% of Hispanic children have decayed teeth or cavities, compared with 11.5% of White children. In addition, 25 % of non-English speaking households have children with decayed teeth or cavities, compared

with 13.5% of English-speaking households. 8.3% of 3-5-Year-Old Head Start enrollees did not receive needed dental treatment. The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS) includes results that describe the oral health care of pregnant and perinatal people. PRAMS data show that approximately 35% of women had their teeth cleaned before pregnancy; 34 % had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy; while 73.4% had insurance to cover dental care during pregnancy in 2020. Poor oral health during pregnancy can lead to poor health outcomes for the parent and baby. Improving oral health for pregnant people is one way to prevent cavities in young children, as pregnancy may make people more prone to periodontal disease and cavities. Therefore, oral health is considered an important part of prenatal care.

- The Nevada Oral Health Program will be using this data as a guide to increase oral health education and awareness for children and pregnant people.

Director's Office, Aging and Disability Services, Part C and NEIS – Dr. Lori Ann Malina-Lovell

- No update provided

Pyramid Model Update – Janice Lee

- No update provided

NevAEYC Update – Carrie Paldi

- No update provided

Nevada Child Care Provider Action Committee – Carrie Paldi

- No update provided

Pritzker PN3 Initiative and Early Childhood Policy Update – Jamelle Nance

- No update provided

Strong Start Update – Annette Dawson-Owens

- The Children's Advocacy Alliance has been holding weekly Legislative updates on Tuesdays at 11:30 which will continue throughout the session. Claire Thomas is sponsoring AB113 which revises the Nevada Early Childhood Advisory Council and was heard on February 20th, as well as AB114 which creates the office of early childhood systems and was heard on February 23rd. We are also watching AB65 and advocating for an exception for families who do not meet the August 1st Kindergarten cut off date. The restorative justice language was taken out of this bill and new bills will be dropping.
- We will be in Carson City for Children's Week at the Legislature on March 13-16th and participating in various activities there.
- Our Children's Advocacy Ambassador Program second cohort is up and running and one of our parent advocates just returned from a conference in DC along with our Executive Director and one of last years parent leaders.

HRSA Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS) Health Integration Grant – Denise Tanata and Tiffany Olivas

- The NV HRSA ECCS Systems Asset and Gap Analysis (SAGA) has been completed and is available for distribution upon request. Please contact Denise Tanata (dtanata@childrencabinet.org) or Tiffany Olivas (tolivas@childrencabinet.org) to receive a copy of the report.

- The HRSA ECCS and the NV MCAH co-hosted the NV ECCS Leadership Team meeting on Friday, February 10th in Carson City. The convening included 43 attendees representing 27 different programs/organizations in the early childhood system in Nevada. The participants heard a presentation from HRSA representatives on the ECCS Health Integration initiative and discussed shared vision, goals and opportunities for coordination and alignment. A primary goal of this group is to develop a Unified Prenatal to Three Strategic Plan for Nevada.

ECE Workforce Plan – Marty Elquist

- Each working group of the Workforce Framework has met twice. working groups are:
 - Professional Development & Pathways
 - Workforce Conditions & Supports
 - Compensation & Financial Incentives
 - Workforce Data
 - Leadership/Steering
- Each workgroup continued to identify current challenges and successes as well as rank the solutions from high to low impact and from high to low effort via a Miro Board. Continued feedback on the Miro boards taking place through a survey format.
- Each workgroup will meet up to three more times.
- SRI is currently scheduling the next round of workgroup meetings. Tentative dates for large group and leadership group are:
 - 1st leadership meeting: **Thursday March 2nd 10:00-11:00am**
 - Large group meeting: **Thursday March 16th 1:00-2:30pm**
 - 2nd leadership meeting: **Monday April 3rd 10:00-11:00am**

NV Early Childhood Family Leadership Council – Ashley Dines and Rosa Tamayo

- Southern Nevada had its February meeting with a presentation from QRIS about
 - Aligning parent engagement within QRIS. (Quality Rating Improvement System)
 - Understanding, recognizing a QRIS site.
- Rachel Stepina presented the PDGB5 website to the council for feedback on parent perspective
- Southern Nevada will be sending three families to Children’s Week.
 - Families will participate in a variety of activities; we look forward to using this opportunity to Empower the families.
- Parent Leadership Coordinators will collaborate on conducting a presentation about implementing authentic engagement within the ECAC and partnering organizations/ agencies.

Research and Needs Assessments – Dr. Amanda Haboush-Deloye

- A comprehensive and updated list of Needs Assessments, Feasibility Studies, Reports and other documents can be found on the Nevada ECAC website at: <http://nvecac.com/ecac-reports-documents/>. Since the January 2023 meeting, the following have been added to the list:
 - [NV's Behavioral Health Community Integration Strategic Plan](#)
 - [NV's Behavioral Health Community Integration Strategic Plan Summary](#)
 - [2022-2025 Southern Nevada Community Health Improvement Plan](#)
 - [Clark County Children's Mental Health Consortium 2023 Status Report](#)
 - (OLD) [2005 Nevada Rural Housing Needs Assessment](#)
 - [NV Resiliency Fund: Opioid Needs Assessment](#)
 - [Southern NV Plan to End Youth Homelessness](#) + [Southern NV Youth Homelessness Needs Assessment SNH CoC Board Presentation](#)

- (OLD) [Statewide Needs Assessment for Nevada's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education \(SNAP-ed\)](#)
- [Churchill County Housing Needs Assessment](#)
- [Empower Carson City 2027 Strategic Plan](#)

New or Potential Grants and Funding – All

- **FY2023 Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children's Health (Project LAUNCH)**
Application Due Date: March 21, 2023
Link to NOFO: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/sm-23-004>
Description: The purpose of this program is to promote the wellness of young children, from birth to 8 years of age, by addressing the social, emotional, cognitive, physical, and behavioral aspects of their development, as well as prepare them to thrive in school and beyond. The awards will also provide local communities or tribes resources to disseminate effective and innovative early childhood mental health practices and services. With this program, SAMHSA aims to promote resilience and emotional health for children, youth, and their families.
- **Services Program for Residential Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women (PPW)**
Application Due Date: March 27, 2023
Link to NOFO: <https://www.samhsa.gov/grants/grant-announcements/ti-23-002>
Description: The purpose of this program is to provide comprehensive services for pregnant and postpartum women with substance use disorders across the continuum of residential settings that support and sustain recovery. As a family-centered program, services also extend to family members and the minor children of the women, the latter whom may reside with the women in the program facilities at the woman's request.

Training & Professional Development Opportunities – All

- **Nevada Early Learning Institute** (Virtual) – February 25th through March 10th, 2023 – Contact Patti Oya (poya@doe.nv.gov) or Dr. Linda Young (linda@villagestarfish.org)
- **Nevada Afterschool Network 2023 Afterschool Showcase** – March 9th-10th, 2023 - <https://www.nevadaafterschool.org/2023afterschoolshowcase.html>
- **Children's Week at the NV Legislature** will take place March 13-16, 2023 in Carson City, NV, at the Nevada State Legislature. For more information, visit the following link: <https://nic.unlv.edu/childrensweek.html>. If your organization is interested in getting involved, please complete the Children's Week Involvement Survey (bit.ly/CW23GetInvolved). Parents and families interested in riding the bus from Las Vegas to Carson City to attend Children's Day on Monday, March 13, 2022, should complete the Bus Registration Survey (bit.ly/CW23BusRegistration)
- Registration is full (with a wait list option) for the **National Training Institute (NTI) on Effective Practices: Addressing Challenging Behavior**. NTI brings experts from around the country to provide an in-depth learning experience built around the Pyramid Model. April 11-14, 2023 in Tampa, FL, <https://web.event.com/event/ed2d5850-15b2-4c94-8ea8-4af19fdc4101/summary> (from Janice Lee, Nevada Pyramid Model Partnership)
- **NevAEYC Conference** – Las Vegas – May 18th-20th, 2023 - <https://nevaeyc.org/events/state-conference/>
- **National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) Annual Conference** – Atlanta, GA - <https://nafcc.org/news-events/>
- **Provider Success Series** - Monthly series through September: All sessions start at 6pm: <https://dpbh.nv.gov/uploadedFiles/dpbh.nv.gov/content/Reg/childCare/Folders/Training/ProviderSuccessSeries.pdf> Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/provider-success-series-1461959> (not all sessions are available for registration yet).